

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
VIRUS LABORATORY

March 21, 1960

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Genetics Department
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

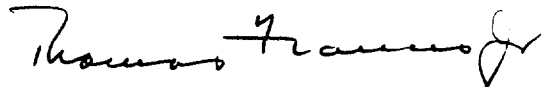
Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you very much for the copy of the resolution adopted by Committee 11 on February 29, 1960, as well as the statement of aims, but most of all I would like to thank you for the copy of your paper on exobiology. It seems to me that this expressed broadly and wisely many aspects of the problem.

I must offer a little demurrer, however, on the idea expressed both in item #3, page 2 on the policy resolution and in pages 23 and 24 of your text. It is my belief, and I think there is good support for this that many agents do not need a long period of adaptation to man before being able to cause serious disease. In fact, we have such a large group of agents which apparently can attack man directly from a variety of sources, soils, animals, plants (allergens), without any ^{previous} ~~transfer or~~ adaptation in man. In fact, they may be among our most severe opponents. This may be a small item, but I think it is important not to assume that adaptation is necessary for new and unidentified agents.

Again with appreciation of your statements. I am sorry I have been unable to attend.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Francis, Jr., M. D.
Professor and Chairman

TF:ehl

cc Dr. Hartline